Amendments to the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A method for processing a mail piece comprising:

receiving a first class of service from a user for processing said mail piece;

determining <u>at least one physical parameter</u> ~~a weight and at least one dimension~~ of said mail piece;

determining whether said first class of service is appropriate for said mail piece using said determined <u>at least one physical parameter</u> ~~weight and said determined at least one dimension~~, and if said first class of service is not appropriate, determining a second class of service for said mail piece using said determined <u>at least one physical parameter</u> ~~weight and said determined at least one dimension~~, said second class of service being appropriate for said mail piece;

setting a final class of service for said mail piece, said final class of service being said first class of service if said first class of service is determined to be appropriate and said second class of service if said first class of service is determined to not be appropriate; and

determining a postage amount for said mail piece using said determined <u>at least one physical parameter</u> ~~weight, said determined at least one dimension~~ and said final class of service.

2. (Original) The method according to claim 1, further comprising:

applying said determined postage amount to one of said mail piece or a tape to be applied to said mail piece.

3. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein receiving a first class of service further comprises:

receiving one or more special services to be applied to said mail piece.

4. (Original) The method according to claim 3, wherein setting a final class of service

further comprises:

determining whether each of said special services is applicable to said mail piece; and

generating a list of applicable special services for said mail piece.

5. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 4, wherein determining said postage

amount further comprises:

determining a postage amount for said mail piece using said determined physical

parameter weight, said determined at least one dimension, said final class of service, and said

list of applicable special services.

6. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 4, wherein determining whether

each of said special services is applicable to said mail piece is based on said final class of

service, said determined physical parameter weight, said determined at least one dimension,

and a determination as to whether all applicable prerequisite requirements have been satisfied.

7. (Original) The method according to claim 4, further comprising:

storing transaction information for said mail piece, said transaction information

including said determined postage amount, said final class of service and said list of

applicable special services.

8. (Original) The method according to claim 1, further comprising:

storing transaction information for said selected mail piece, said transaction

information including said determined postage amount and said final class of service.

9. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein said at least one physical

parameter includes a weight and at least one dimension of said mail piece, and determining

whether said first class of service is appropriate and determining a second class of service comprise:

determining whether said first class of service supports said ~~determined~~ at least one dimension and, if not, finding a third class of service that supports said ~~determined~~ at least one dimension;

determining whether one of said first class of service and said third class of service, if applicable, supports said ~~determined~~ weight and, if not, finding a fourth class of service that support said ~~determined~~ weight;

setting said second class of service equal to said third class of service if said first class of service does not support said ~~determined~~ at least one dimension and said third class of service supports said weight; and

setting said second class of service equal to said fourth class of service if neither of said first class of service and said third class of service, if applicable, support said ~~determined~~ weight;

wherein said first class of service is appropriate if said first class of service supports both said ~~determined~~ at least one dimension and said ~~determined~~ weight.

10. (Original) The method according to claim 9, wherein finding a third class and finding a fourth class further comprise:

determining said third class of service and said fourth class of service based on predetermined rules for switching classes.

11. (Original) A mail processing system for processing a mail piece comprising:

a postage meter for applying postage values to said mail piece;

a scale for weighing said mail piece;

a dimensioning module for determining at least one dimension of said mail piece;

a central processing unit controlling operation of said postage meter, said scale and said dimensioning module; and

a memory storing postage rating information and software executable by said central processing unit, said software including instructions for performing:

receiving a first class of service from a user for processing said mail piece;

determining a weight of said mail piece using said scale and at least one dimension of said mail piece using said dimensioning module;

determining whether said first class of service is appropriate for said mail piece using said determined weight and said determined at least dimension, and if said first class of service is not appropriate, determining a second class of service for said mail piece using said determined weight and said determined at least one dimension, said second class of service being appropriate for said mail piece;

setting a final class of service for said mail piece, said final class of service being said first class of service if said first class of service is determined to be appropriate and said second class of service if said first class of service is determined to not be appropriate; and

determining a postage amount for said mail piece using said determined weight, said determined at least one dimension, said final class of service and said postage rating information.

12. (Original) The mail processing system according to claim 11, wherein said software further includes instructions for causing said postage meter to apply said determined postage amount to one of said mail piece or a tape to be applied to said mail piece.

13. (Original) The mail processing system according to claim 11, wherein receiving a first class of service further comprises:

receiving one or more special services to be applied to said mail piece.

14. (Original) The mail processing system according to claim 12, wherein setting a final class of service further comprises:

determining whether each of said special services is applicable to said mail piece using said postage rating information, said postage rating information including special service availability information, and

generating a list of applicable special services for said mail piece.

15. (Original) The mail processing system according to claim 14, wherein determining a postage amount for said mail piece further comprises:

determining a postage amount for said mail piece using said determined weight, said determined at least one dimension, said final class of service, and said list of applicable special services.

16. (Original) The mail processing system according to claim 14, wherein determining whether each of said special services is applicable to said mail piece is based on said final class of service, said determined weight, said determined at least one dimension, and a determination as to whether all applicable prerequisite requirements have been satisfied.

17. (Original) The mail processing system according to claim 14, wherein said software further includes instructions for storing transaction information for said mail piece in said memory, said transaction information including said determined postage amount and said final class of service.

18. (Original) The mail processing system according to claim 11, wherein said software

further includes instructions for storing transaction information for said mail piece in said memory, said transaction information including said determined postage amount, said final class of service and said list of applicable special services.

19. (Original) The mail processing system according to claim 11, wherein determining whether said first class of service is appropriate and determining a second class of service comprise:

determining whether said first class of service supports said determined t least one dimension and, if not, finding a third class of service that supports said determined at least one dimension;

determining whether one of said first class of service and said third class of service, if applicable, supports said determined weight and, if not, finding a fourth class of service that support said determined weight;

setting said second class of service equal to said third class of service if said first class of service does not support said at least one dimension and said third class of service supports said weight; and

setting said second class of service equal to said fourth class of service if neither of said first class of service and said third class of service, if applicable, support said determined weight;

wherein said first class of service is appropriate if said first class of service supports both said determined at least one dimension and said determined weight.

20. (Original) The mail processing system according to claim 19, wherein finding a third class and finding a fourth class further comprise:

determining said third class of service and said fourth class of service based on predetermined rules for switching classes.

21. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein said at least one physical parameter includes a weight and at least one dimension of said mail piece.

22. (New) A method of processing mail pieces comprising:

establishing a default class of service for processing said mail pieces;

establishing a threshold value for at least one physical parameter of said mail pieces;

determining an actual value for said at least one physical parameter of a mail piece;

using said actual vale and said threshold value to determine if said default class of service is appropriate for said mail piece; and

if said default class of service is not appropriate, using a different class of service to process said mail piece.

23. (New) The method according to claim 22, wherein said at least one physical parameter includes a weight and at least one dimension of said mail piece.